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DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY

Dear Josh:

In reflecting on the unique tie between cells and DNA I was struck by the possible evolutionary implications for a common origin of cells. If this is true I haven't found anyone who has said so and if it isn't so why not? What is the flaw in my reasoning? You wide reading probably carried you to discussions I haven't seen. Can you recall any comment on such a thought?

The RNA viruses only reinforce the notion for they show that other biochemical coding schemes exist and yet in the wide variety of ^{cellular} systems analyzed thus far only DNA with - in general the same four bases - is the primary hereditary material. If a number of cell ^{types} arose independently one might expect them to have different systems of biochemical coding.

Is this well known or incorrect?

We are getting some interesting things, which I would like to talk over with you when our paths cross -

Best regards!

Roger